

Town of Hampton



*Department of Resources and
Economic Development*



**Hampton Beach Area Commission
100 Winnacunnet Road
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842
Selectmen's Meeting Room – Town Hall
Monthly Meeting – April 23, 2014
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

In Attendance:

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton Representative
Fran McMahon, Rockingham Planning Commission
Bob Preston, Hampton Chamber of Commerce
Bill Watson, Vice Chairman-NH Department of Transportation
Chuck Rage, Hampton Beach Village District
Rick Griffin, Town of Hampton Representative

Excused: Michael Housman, Dean Merrill

Absent: Rich Reniere

Other: Jason Bachand, Town Planner
Anne Marchand, Secretary

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Commissioners.

Public Comments related to Agenda Items: No public comments.

Appointments. Ed St. Pierre spoke to the Commission about the South Beach entry into Hampton Beach, both incoming and outgoing. He said he drives both ways every day and has some ideas to share. He commented that it would be a great project for the HBAC as they are good at getting people together and getting things done. He also mentioned the cross-directional areas that are involved including the Harbor, HBVD, DRED, and DOT.

Mr. St. Pierre stated he has worked in that area including placing of a bench and working with the boat with the flowers. He tried to donate another bench but got into “territorial issues”. Further, he envisions a pocket park where one could rest reflect and recharge while using the bench(s) provided. He also noted that there could be some educational opportunities working with Blue Ocean and having informational signs which give history of the harbor, fishing, etc. He also noted that, given there may be a new bridge in the future, anything put there should not be too permanent. He also mentioned picnic benches and more sitting benches.

Mr. St Pierre noted that the jersey barriers and telephone poles are unsightly and often vehicles use the area. He said that stake holders need to be prodded to clean up, and also recommended that the railings should be continued further given how nice the harbor looks with the new railings.

Other suggestions by Mr St. Pierre include:

- Grass treated and fertilized;
- A coat of paint on the Pump House, perhaps even nautical murals;
- Pergola on the Pump House could be enhanced and improved;
- Shutters on the Pump House windows;
- UNITIL planting around their “cage”;
- The State Shed being fenced, with perhaps a mural;
- And, adding color whether by paint or flowers.

Mr. Rage commented that the interior of the Pump House is not a building that can be used.

Mr. Nyhan pointed out that this topic is under the “New Business” section of this meeting and the Commission agreed to move to that discussion at this point. He stated that discussion was put on the Agenda for last month in order to get some momentum going. He agreed it is not attractive coming into the beach from the south and there are 8 or 9 stakeholders that could play a role in coming up and implementing creative ideas. He noted it is not just in the median strip but also on the DRED side.

He suggested having the HBAC coordinate efforts with the HBVD, Beautification Committee, Port Authority, DOT, Town of Hampton, UNITIL, and Blue Ocean along with businesses to help and support the improvements. He noted that people should be asked to get around the table with the HBAC in order to explain the proposals and brainstorming as to who can do what, and most important, what can we do. It was agreed that this needs to go from “idea” to “putting something together”. He commented that Geno Marconi of the Port Authority had raised questions about the land and is open to listening to the suggestions for him to present to the Port Authority Board.

It was suggested that a special meeting be called, inviting individuals from organizations and have them participate by coming in with their thoughts and ideas.

Mr. Preston noted that improvements to the area would do the whole beach justice.

There was also brief discussion of the Vietnam Memorial and its location. Mr. St. Pierre reported there is a certain criteria for how/where it will be displayed.

Mr. Rage suggested a Field-Trip Meeting, walking and talking in a group. Mr. Nyhan suggested a date in May that would tie in with the DRED Operational meeting on May 16th, following a look at the area after that meeting. The tentative date will be May 16th after he has contacted all participants. Mr. St. Pierre offered his assistance in coordinating the meeting effort.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. McMahon to accept the Notes of the Special Meeting held on March 26, 2015, as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Rage

VOTE: In favor 5, 1 Abstain (Mr. Preston)

MOTION PASSED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Rage to accept the Minutes of the March 26, 2015 Meeting, as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Preston

VOTE: 6 in Favor, 0 Opposed

MOTION PASSED

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

1. Update – meetings attended regarding the NHDOT 10-Year-Plan.

Mr. Nyhan reported he and Mr. McMahon attended a public hearing at the Rockingham Planning Commission and learned that Ocean Boulevard is still included in the 10-Year-Plan, but is not on the list of projects presented to DOT. It was confirmed that Hampton has not lost any ground and the prerogative is to go forward and request a “next stage” where there would be construction money set aside for further engineering and design type of work. He said they left the meeting feeling comfortable as the Ocean Boulevard project is important.

Mr. McMahon complimented Mr. Nyhan on his explanation of the intent and what is and has gone on at the beach. Further, it was indicated that the issue of the 10-Year-Plan was in error which was clarified.

Mr. Nyhan spoke of the confusion where the Ocean Boulevard section of the report from the Planning Commission to DOT was moved out to 2026 or 2027, and the Planning Commission admitted that was a mistake and will make sure it is rectified before the final report goes to DOT.

Mr. Watson stated that the Planning Commission has had a public hearing and approved the plan and now DOT will receive 9 sets of priorities and he will be interested to see how the Planning Commission presents their plans. DOT, he said, will not touch projects if they are not part of the 10-Year-Plan. Any plan to be added will be prioritized and DOT will take recommendations and there will be a “short list” along with 8 other “short lists”. The decision will be based on evaluating one against another and a priority list will go to the Commissioner for the 10-Year-Plan. The Plan, he said is based on Federal revenue and dependent on what comes out of the State budget process. As funding allows, there will be an effort to add projects to represent all the regions with priorities in the 10-Year-Plan.

Mr. Preston suggested a letter be sent from the HBAC to Councilor Sununu. Mr. Watson recommends that the Beach Commission has a say at the hearings which will be held later this year.

MOTION: Mr. Preston moved to authorize the Chair to write a letter to encourage Councilor Sununu's support for additional funding for Ocean Boulevard.

SECOND: Mr. Griffin

VOTE: 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

MOTION PASSED.

2. Tiger Grant Application decision and process.

Mr Nyhan recommended holding off on the application for this year and put their efforts in applying for the Grant next year in that more work will be done with the present Grant and it would be more suitable to look at applying for 2016. Mr. Watson agreed.

3. Parking exceptions for special NH plates. Tabled until have more information from DRED.

TREASURER's REPORT – Mr. Housman.

Mr. Nyhan reported for Mr. Housman who was not present at the meeting. There is no change in the balance from March, and it remains at \$16,499.43.

Mr. Housman asked that the Commission be reminded of the DRED Public Meeting including operational updates. The meeting will be held on May 16th at 9 am on top of the Seashell Stage.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Transportation Grant Update - DOT.

Mr. Watson suggested that the Commission check to make sure the time spent by HBAC members is accurate tracking is done on a monthly basis with a quarterly review. Mr. Rose is working on that, and he suggested there is a lot of opportunity to get more involved. At the present time, HBAC is tracking a little behind. Mr Watson provided copies of the Attendance Report which covers four meetings back to November when the Transportation Grant has been discussed. The report gives hourly rates of time spent as well as Mr. Bachand and Ms. Marchand's time and meeting space fees from the Town ad in-kind contributions

MOTION: Mr. Griffin moved to approve the In-Kind Report as presented this evening in the amount of \$1,664.30 as of April 1, 2015.

SECOND: Mr. Preston

VOTE: 6 in Favor, 0 Opposed

MOTION PASSED

2. DRED operational spring update Mike Housman. To be tabled until the May 21, 2015 meeting.

3. Other Old Business. No other old business this evening.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. South Beach Entrance Way. Mr. Nyhan said that the HBAC is looking for new and creative ways to improve the look of the South Beach Entrance. He noted that Mr. St. Pierre's suggestions and recommendations will be included in this discussion. (See Appointments Page 1 for comments and discussion.)

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Bachand reported there is to be Zoning Review Subcommittee formed. Letters of interest have been invited from the public, which are due on May 5th. At the Planning Board Meeting on May 6th, it is anticipated the subcommittee will be chosen. This subcommittee will be looking at Zoning in two areas, Hampton Beach - the area west of Ashworth Avenue and Liberty Lane.

2. Mr. Rage spoke of the newly organized Gulf of Main Charter and Fishing Association. He stated There will be a meeting with Senators and Representatives. He reported that people do not now until the end of each month whether or not they can fish with rod and reel, and/or run their businesses. It is hard for the businesses in that they cannot take reservations for charters, nor whether they can even go fishing. This affects other businesses and activities including the bait store, fishing off the bridge, etc., and involves serious issues for the local fishermen as well as the businesses up to Maine and down to Massachusetts. One can become a member of the Association for a \$2500 fee. He stated if one wants to help, they need to join in order to support the efforts of the Association which has also hired a lobbyist to represent them in Washington.

Mr. Charlie Preston reported that Senator Guinta will be at the Lane Library on Friday, April 24th for a discussion on fishing matters and concerns.

Mr. Robert Preston reported that he has heard that Foss Manufacturing is looking to hire 25 people, preferably veterans. He suggested those looking for employment stop by and get an application.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: Mr. Preston moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Second: Mr. Rage

Vote: 6 in favor, 0 opposed,

MOTION PASSED

Thank You to Channel 22 for recording the meeting.

THE NEXT HBAC MEETING WILL BE HELD ON Thursday, May 21, 2015. Please note date, the meeting is to be held one week prior to regular fourth Thursday due to Holiday week.

Respectfully Submitted:
Anne Marchand, Secretary